

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A cholesterol-lowering agent containing, as an active ingredient, at least one yeast belonging to *Issatchenkia*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Kloeckera*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Pichia*, or *Torulaspora*.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A cholesterol-lowering agent containing, as an active ingredient, at least one yeast selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Kloeckera africana*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Pichia farinosa*, and *Torulaspora delbrueckii*.

Claim 3 (Original): Foods and drinks for reducing cholesterol containing a yeast as recited in claim 1 or 2.

Claim 4 (Original): A secondary bile acid production inhibitor containing a yeast as an active ingredient.

Claim 5 (Original): A secondary bile acid production inhibitor according to claim 4, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Saccharomyces*, *Hyphopichia*, *Candida*, *Torulaspora*, *Pichia*, and *Zygosaccharomyces*.

Claim 6 (Original): A secondary bile acid production inhibitor according to claim 4, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Kluyveromyces thermotolerans*,

*Hanseniaspora uvarum, Saccharomyces cerevisiae, Saccharomyces dairensis, Saccharomyces exigus, Saccharomyces unisporus, Saccharomyces bayanus, Hyphopichia burtonii, Candida kefyr, Candida etchellsii, Candida zeylanoides, Candida solani, Candida maltosa, Candida tropicalis, Candida cylindracea, Candida utilis, Torulaspora delbrueckii, Pichia anomala, Pichia holstii, and Zygosaccharomyces rouxii.*

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A food[[s]] and/or drink for inhibiting secondary bile acid production containing a yeast as recited in any one of claims 4 to 6.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): Use, in the production of a cholesterol-lowering agent, of at least one yeast belonging to *Candida, Issatchenkia, Hanseniaspora, Kloeckera, Kluyveromyces, Pichia, or Torulaspora*.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): Use, in the production of a cholesterol-lowering agent, of at least one yeast selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis, Hanseniaspora uvarum, Kloeckera africana, Kluyveromyces marxianus, Kluyveromyces lactis, Pichia farinosa, and Torulaspora delbrueckii*.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): Use of a yeast as recited in claim 1 or 2 in the production of a food and drink for reducing cholesterol.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): Use of a yeast in the production of a secondary bile acid proction inhibitor.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): Use according to claim 11, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Saccharomyces*, *Hyphopichia*, *Candida*, *Torulaspora*, *Pichia*, and *Zygosaccharomyces*.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): Use of a yeast in the production of a secondary bile acid production inhibitor according to claim 11, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Kluyveromyces thermotolerans*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces dairensis*, *Saccharomyces exiguis*, *Saccharomyces unisporus*, *Saccharomyces bayanus*, *Hyphopichia burtonii*, *Candida kefyr*, *Candida etchellsii*, *Candida zeylanoides*, *Candida solani*, *Candida maltosa*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida cylindracea*, *Candida utilis*, *Torulaspora delbrueckii*, *Pichia anomala*, *Pichia holstii*, *Pachiticospora transversensis*, and *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): Use, in the production of a food or drink for inhibiting secondary bile acid production, of a yeast as recited in any one of claims 11 to 13.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A treatment method for reducing cholesterol, comprising administration of at least one yeast belonging to *Issatchenkia*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Kloeckera*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Pichia*, or *Torulaspora*.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A treatment method for reducing cholesterol, comprising administration of at least one yeast selected from among *Issatchenkia crientalis*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Kloeckera africana*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Pichia farinosa*, and *Torulaspora delbrueckii*.

Claim 17 (Original): A treatment method for inhibiting secondary bile acid production, comprising administration of a yeast.

Claim 18 (Original): A method according to claim 17, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Saccharomyces*, *Hyphopichia*, *Candida*, *Torulaspora*, *Pichia*, and *Zygosaccharomyces*.

Claim 19 (Original): A method according to claim 17, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Kluyveromyces thermotolerans*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces dairensis*, *Saccharomyces exiguus*, *Saccharomyces unisporus*, *Saccharomyces bayanus*, *Hyphopichia burtonii*, *Candida kefyr*, *Candida etchellsii*, *Candida zeylanoides*, *Candida solani*, *Candida maltosa*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida cylindracea*, *Candida utilis*, *Torulaspora delbrueckii*, *Pichia anomala*, *Pichia holstii*, *Pachiticospora transverensis*, and *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*.

Claim 20 (New): A food or drink comprising at least one yeast belonging to *Kluyveromyces*.